



## Loudoun County, Virginia

[www.loudoun.gov/clerk](http://www.loudoun.gov/clerk)

**News Release**

Clerk of the Circuit Court

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### **Clerk Advises Loudoun Citizens to Beware Phone Scams**

The Sheriff's Office recently reported that there have been more than 850 Loudoun residents who have reported claims of telephone fraud since January 2014. These phone scams usually involve callers who fraudulently identify themselves as court officials, law enforcement officers or clerk's office employees who claim the victim owes payment for missing jury duty, for delinquent taxes or for an outstanding arrest warrant. Some of the victims have actually paid hundreds or thousands of dollars after buying an electronic money order card, referred to as a MoneyPak order or a Green Dot Card, and then providing the number on the card to the caller. The caller terminates the call and proceeds to collect the money using the card number provided by the unsuspecting victim. The scam callers take advantage of a resident's initial emotional response to being notified that they failed to report for jury duty or have an arrest warrant pending.

The circuit court and the office of the clerk of the circuit court will not call a citizen to request money over the telephone for failure to report for jury duty or failure to report for a court hearing. "The Court may issue a warrant or court order directing an individual who failed to report for jury duty to appear in court to explain to the Court why that individual neglected to appear for jury duty, but the individual will not receive a call requesting the payment of fees by telephone," explained Gary M. Clemens, the clerk of the circuit court. "It should be a red flag when a Loudoun resident receives a call of this nature because no one in my office will call requesting money over the telephone using these money cards."

For more information regarding the ways in which these scammers will try to fraudulently obtain payment from victims, you can download a flyer at [www.sheriff.loudoun.gov/moneycard](http://www.sheriff.loudoun.gov/moneycard).

Any resident who believes they have been a victim of these telephone scams or receive a call suspected of being a telephone scam should contact the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office at (703) 777-1021 or file a police report online at [www.sheriff.loudoun.gov/reportonline](http://www.sheriff.loudoun.gov/reportonline).